



**▲ ECHOLOCACTION** To visualize their surroundings, bats emit ultrasonics, which are high-pitched calls that humans cannot hear. These sound waves bounce off surfaces, giving the animal a clear picture of its environment. Radar waves work in the same manner. This method of navigation in space is called echolocation.

**▲ ÉCHOLOCACTION** Pour voir ce qui les entoure, les chauves-souris émettent des ultrasons, des cris très aigus invisibles pour l'homme. Ces ondes sonores reviennent à l'animal avec une image précise de son milieu en rebondissant sur les surfaces, tout comme les ondes des radars. Cette manière de se repérer dans l'espace s'appelle l'écholocation.



**TOUCH TO SEE!**  
What sort of landscape is hidden inside?  
Can you identify its features with your fingertips?  
Give your response by pressing the appropriate button.

**TOUCHEZ POUR VOIR!**  
Quel paysage est caché dans la boîte?  
Distinguez-vous les détails avec vos doigts?  
Donnez votre réponse en appuyant sur un des boutons.



**2024**  
Annual Report  
hhpl halton hills  
public library



## Land Acknowledgement

Halton Hills Public Library is located on the Treaty Lands and Territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation as well as the traditional territory of the Haudenosaunee and the Huron Wendat. We are within the bounds of Treaty 19, also known as the Ajetance Treaty, agreed upon by the Mississaugas of the Credit and the British Crown in 1818.

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**Council:** Mayor Ann Lawlor, Councillor Alex Hilson (Board Appointee), Councillor Bob Inglis (Board Appointee), Councillor Chantal Garneau, Councillor D’Arcy Keene, Councillor Jane Fogal, Councillor Jason Brass, Councillor Joseph Racinsky, Councillor Michael Albano.

**Board Members:** Betsy Cospers (Chair), Matt Kindbom (Vice Chair), Alice Strachan, Christina da Rocha-Feeley, Erica Daly, Jane Marshall, Keith Medenblik, Lisa Teggart, Tamara Smith, Beverley King (Chief Librarian & CEO).

**Absent:** Councillor Clark Somerville, Councillor Ron Norris.

## Building a connected community

The Halton Hills Public Library Board engaged with community partners and advocated for library services throughout 2024. In May, the Board hosted Council for “An Evening at the Library.” This event highlighted the library’s vital role as a community hub. Council watched a robotics demonstration by children in an afterschool program and met community partners at the EcoFilm Fest. They explored the Creativity Centre and had a behind-the-scenes tour of the Esquesing Historical Society Archives. This firsthand experience showed Council the many materials, programs, and spaces available to the community.

Our Board members were also active at a provincial level. Councillor Hilson was appointed to the Ontario Library Boards’ Association, contributing to public library board governance. Christina da Rocha-Feeley was elected to the Ontario Library Service Board of Directors, representing our Board Assembly and contributing to the strategic governance of provincial library services.

## A message from the Chair and Chief Librarian & CEO

At HHPL we believe books are just the beginning. While they remain at the heart of what we do, the library is so much more – a place of discovery, connection, and opportunity for all. In 2024, we continued to evolve, finding new ways to spark curiosity, support learning, and strengthen our community.

We welcomed thousands of readers – some discovering their first book, others diving into lifelong favourites. Our award-winning Short Story Dispenser brought literature to life in unexpected places, and our growing digital collections made books and resources more accessible than ever.

We also expanded services to meet the changing needs of our community. We extended our fine-free policy to adults aged 65 and older, removing barriers for seniors on fixed incomes. In partnership with Food for Life, we distributed over 9,500 pounds of fresh produce to those in need. We also introduced new partnerships with the Centre for Diverse Learners and Support House, offering tutoring for neurodiverse children and healthcare access for those without a health card.

As part of our commitment to sustainability, our Acton Branch became the first bird-friendly municipal building in Halton Hills, thanks to window decals designed to prevent bird collisions – a collaborative effort with the Town and Bird Friendly Halton Hills.

Guided by our 2023–2027 Strategic Plan, we remain committed to creating welcoming spaces, fostering connections, and enriching lives. Whether you come for a book, a workshop, a community event, or simply a place to belong – we’re here for you.

Thank you to our staff, volunteers, Board members, and partners. Your passion and dedication make HHPL a cornerstone of our community. We look forward to all that 2025 will bring.



**Betsy Cospers**  
Board Chair



**Beverley King**  
Chief Librarian and CEO

# Welcoming and Inclusive



An average retired couple living in Halton Hills borrows

**\$6,000**

worth of library materials each year.

## Enhancing access for older adults

In 2024, we expanded our fine-free policy to residents aged 65 and up, building on our existing policy for infants, children, and youth. Removing the risk of fines encourages more frequent visits, helping seniors stay connected to our community and more easily access essential resources.

Older adults rely on the library for equitable access to information and technology. Through Book a Librarian, staff provided over 100 hours of one-on-one tech support, helping seniors build confidence and improve their digital skills.

The library also offers opportunities to socialize and give back to the community. Volunteers supported key library services, including Reading Buddies, Home Library Service, and the Seed Library. Our volunteers shared their love of reading with young readers, delivered materials to home-bound residents, and helped package the thousands of seeds we distribute each year.

## Key Accomplishments

- Welcomed Nancy Cooper, an author from Chippewas of Rama First Nation. Nancy discussed the importance of Indigenous children’s literature at the Halton Hills Lecture Series and led a Family Storytime featuring her books.
- Hosted an accessible media production training day for high school students in partnership with The Disability Channel, Georgetown District High School, and the Community Pathways Program. Paralympian athlete, author, and businesswoman “Unstoppable” Tracy Schmitt was the keynote speaker.
- Celebrated “Show Your Pride Month” with 2SLGBTQIA+ programming for all ages in support of equity, diversity, and inclusion.
- Led our first Community Open House for over 20 organizations serving Halton Region. Community service providers had an opportunity to visit the Georgetown Branch, network, and strengthen regional collaboration.
- Improved access to information about the Town, Region, and community services by expanding the Information Halton Hills displays. These displays showcase resources to support residents with limited access to technology.
- Introduced new autism and neurodiversity awareness training for our team so they can create a safe and welcoming space for all.



# Connected Community



## Supporting nature and well-being

Organizations across Halton continue to recognize the library as a trusted partner in serving the community. This year, many groups reached out to collaborate and expand services in meaningful ways. Bird Friendly Halton Hills offered to assist the library in preventing birds from colliding with the large windows of the Acton Branch. Thanks to support from the Town and Nature Canada, grid decals were installed on the windows in October. This initiative made the Acton Branch an example of how residents can make their own homes and businesses bird friendly.

Support House approached the library to help people without a health card gain access to healthcare. A nurse practitioner and social worker now meet clients at the library. The Centre for Diverse Learners also started bringing culturally informed mental health support and specialized programs for neurodiverse children to the library. By working together, we strengthen community connections and expand access for all.

## Key Accomplishments

- Hosted a sold-out lecture by Mark Rowe, Esquering Historical Society Archivist, for the Town of Halton Hills' 50th anniversary.
- Made solar eclipse glasses available to library card holders to help them safely view the total solar eclipse on April 8.
- Distributed over 10,000 seed packages through the Seed Library, an increase of 46%.
- Distributed 9,593 pounds of fresh produce to those in need through our partnership with Food for Life.
- Participated in the Menstrual Equity pilot program with Georgetown Bread Basket, distributing 181 packages.
- Delighted families with visits from Bluey & Bingo. Georgetown's visit was part of the Downtown Georgetown's Holiday Market and attracted over 1,000 people to the festivities.
- Awarded the 2024 Technology Advancing Libraries Award for the Short Story Dispenser. Over 4,000 stories were printed in its first year!



## New Local History Exhibits

**History of the Hills:** Learn about the communities that came together to create the Town of Halton Hills.

**History of Halton Hills Public Library:** Learn about the history of local library services.



View our virtual exhibits when you scan the QR code or visit [www.hhpl.ca/VirtualExhibits](http://www.hhpl.ca/VirtualExhibits)



# Enriching Lives



## Boosting Literacy

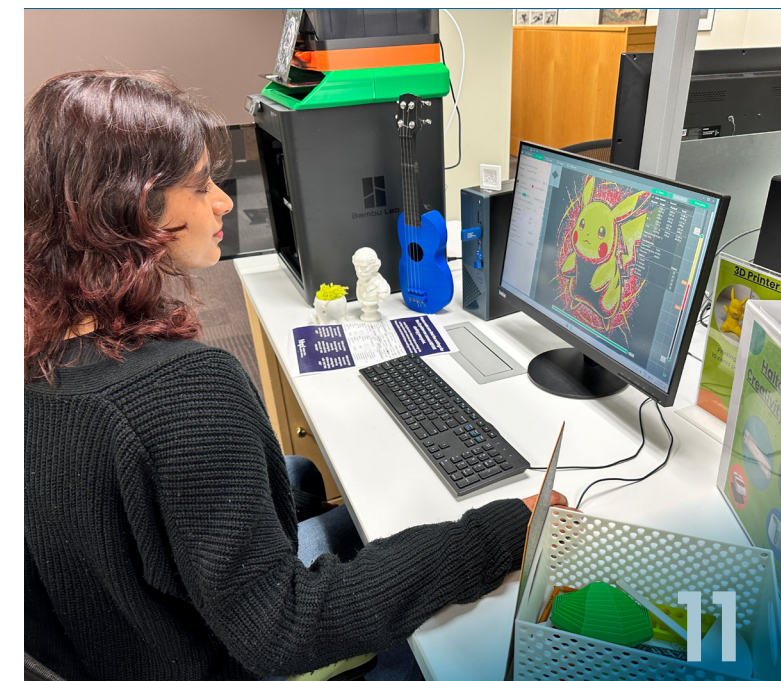
Research shows that children who don't read over the summer can fall behind academically by up to one or two months. We offered a wide range of activities to keep students engaged in learning while school was out.

The TD Summer Reading Club allows kids to explore the fun of reading in their own way. In 2024, we registered 783 children in the Canada-wide program. Halton Hills children logged 5,448 hours of reading and borrowed 36,345 books!

STEAM-based learning was also offered. The Tomatosphere™ program asked children to discover how exposure to outer space affects the germination of tomato seeds. Children made their hypotheses and then observed and recorded their findings.

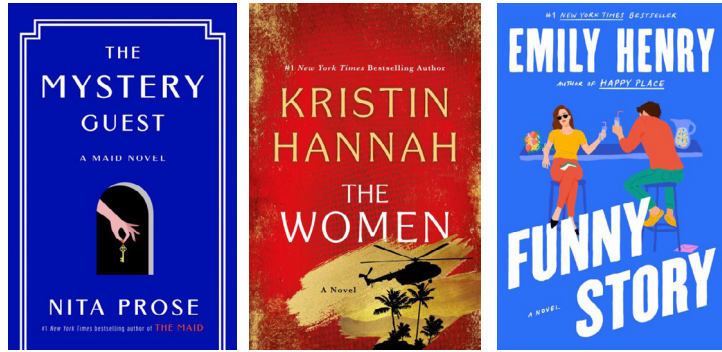
## Key Accomplishments

- Hosted the Space to Spoon exhibit from Ingenium - Canada's Museums of Science and Technology. Residents learned how space technology benefits Canadian farmers and sustainable agriculture.
- Welcomed bestselling author Nita Prose for an author talk and book signing. Over 100 residents came out to meet our latest One Book, One Halton Hills author.
- Partnered with the Town of Halton Hills for the Go Green Halton Hills Series, delivering presentations on electric vehicles, pollinator support, sustainable farming, and community-based city planning.
- Created fun ways for children to build reading skills with an interactive play table and more read-a-long books.
- Launched Brainfuse in September to provide access to a free, online tutoring service for K-12 students. Support is also available for adult learners.
- Added newspapers and magazines in 64 languages through PressReader. This platform provides access to news, culture, and stories from around the world.
- Launched new 3D printing technology, making it possible to scan and replicate an object and print in multiple colours.

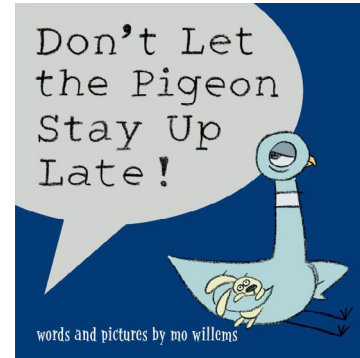


# Your Favourites

## Adult Fiction



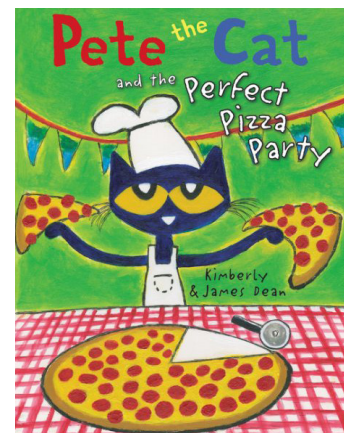
## Children's Picture Book Series



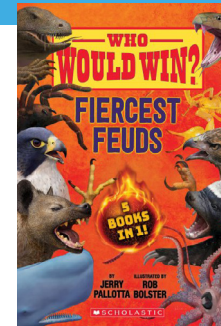
## Adult Non-Fiction



## YA Fiction



## Top Children's Topics



Animals  
Space  
Biology

## Top Adult Topics



Cooking  
Biography  
History

## Top Newspapers in PressReader



Toronto Star  
Wallstreet Journal  
National Post

## MOST POPULAR

### Education Kit



Birding Backpack

### New Item



Steam Deck

### Robot



Sphero Indi

## MOST POPULAR

### Guest



Bluey & Bingo

### Film



One Life (Hoopla)

### Learning Topic



Artificial Intelligence

42,480  
audiobooks  
listened to



77,645  
ebooks read



# Year at a glance

**223,770**  
Branch visits



**520,036**  
Website visits

**18,725**  
Active  
cardholders



**3,083**  
New library cards

**496,016**



Items  
borrowed

Study room usage:

**8,936** bookings

**15,615** hours



Meeting room rentals:

**1,485** bookings

**3,929** hours



**1,428**

Programs offered

**80**

Program  
partners

**27,230**

Program  
attendees



Annual Financial Reports can be found by visiting the Town of Halton Hills financial information page: <https://www.haltonhills.ca/financials/>

# Thank you to our supporters!



Collaboration brings our mission to life. Through the collective efforts of our volunteers, partners, and donors, we expand opportunities and create a thriving library for all.

A special thank you to the Friends of the Library for their generous \$3,500 donation. Their support helped fund:

- One Book, One Halton Hills
- Halton Hills Lecture Series
- INC. Project
- Art at the Library
- Space to Spoon Exhibit from the Canada Science and Technology Museum

These programs bring people together, encourage creativity, and inspire a love of reading. We are grateful for their ongoing support in making these meaningful initiatives possible.

## Our mission

To empower our community through ideas, creativity, and connection in a welcoming, safe and supportive environment.

## Our vision

To enrich the lives of everyone in our community.

## Our values

- Building Community
- Collaboration
- Inclusivity
- Innovation
- Intellectual Freedom
- Service Excellence
- Learning, Literacy and Discovery



## Locations

### Georgetown Branch

9 Church Street, Georgetown ON, L7G 2A3

### Acton Branch

17 River Street, Acton ON, L7J 1C2

### Library Lockers

Gellert Community Centre,  
10241 8th Line, Georgetown, ON, L7G 4S5



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